(b) whether any State in the country is using KU Band;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what steps Government have taken or porpose to take to bring more use of KU band in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) KU band is the nomenclature for representing the frequency band for about 11 Giga Hertz (GHz) to 18 Giga Hertz(GHz) of Radio Frequency Spectrum. DTH is an abbreviation which is commonly used for Direct To Home Broadcasting Service. KU band is permitted for DTH Service in India. Reception of KU band signal requires smaller dish antenna (45-60 centimeters diameter). Being digital transmission, DTH Service in KU band provides superior picture quality and sound clarity.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Andhra Pradesh State Government has been authorized to operate their satellite educational programmes in this band.

(d) Adequate provision of KU band payloads is being made in Indian Satellite System (INSAT). Doordarshan is planning to provide coverage to uncovered areas particularly, in hilly and sparsely populated areas in KU band. This band is already being used extensively by both public and private telecom service providers and other users for satellite and terrestrial applications throughout India.

Shortage of revenue and postal stamps

3818. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of acute shortage of revenue stamps and other postal stamps in the country, especially in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken to meet the shortage;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) The Department of Posts does not procure and stock revenue stamps. These are procured by the State Government directly from India Security Press, Nasik and only sold through post offices. It has been ascertained from the Government of Tamil Nadu that the supply position of revenue stamps is now satisfactory. Instances of shortage of Revenue Stamps elsewhere have not come to notice. General shortage of some of the denominations of other postal stamps due to disruption of printing and supply by ISP, Nasik in Tamil Nadu and elsewhere have come to notice. Normal printing has now been resumed to meet the shortage.

(d) Does not arise in view of (a) to (c) above.

OFC in Tamil Nadu

3819. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the length of Optical Fibre Cable laid in Tamil Nadu, so far;

(b) whether any more Optical Fibre Cable is likely to be laid in the near future;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The total length of Optical Fibre Cable laid in Tamil Nadu is 20,031 Rkms upto 31st March, 2002.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Target for laying of Optical Fibre Cable for the year 2002-2003 is 2600 Rkms.

(d) Does not arise in view of (b) above.